U. S. FOREST SERVICE

RESEARCH NOTE NC-125

ORTH CENTRAL FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION, FOREST SERVICE—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

A SUMMARY OF PRESCRIBED BURNING DONE IN THE LAKE STATES DURING 1970

ABSTRACT. — Reports the results of a survey of operational prescribed burns in the Lake States during 1970.

OXFORD: 436(77):156:232.21. KEY WORDS: fire, site preparation, wildlife management.

A survey of land management agencies in the Lake States shows that approximately 20,000 acres were prescribed burned during 1970 (table 1), a 40-percent increase over 1969 and almost 100 percent more than in 1968. About half the total acreage was burned for hazard reduction. Wildlife habitat improvement comprised the second largest acreage; planting site preparation was third. During 1968 and 1969, 13,800 and 10,100 acres were burned, respectively (Sando 1969; 1971).

The 1970 field season had average spring burning conditions, but an unusual period of dry weather during July and August extended the summer burning season. However, the high fire danger during July and August probably limited the amount of burning that could be done. The high fire danger also increased the costs of some burns because of more stringent control requirements and intensive mopup. Generally, cost per acre varied with size of burn.

As in the past, most of the prescribed burns for wildlife habitat management were made in the spring, although some fall burning was also done for this purpose. Experienced operators again accounted for the most acres burned. Besides the increased acreage, prescribed burning is generally being more widely used as a forest management tool.

LITERATURE CITED

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Sando, Rodney W. 1971. A summary of prescribed burning done in Minnesota and Wisconsin during 1969. USDA Forest Serv. Res. Note NC-107, 2 p. N. Cent. Forest Exp. Sta., St. Paul, Minn.

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Table 1. — *Summary of precribed burns reported in the Lake States, 1970*

Agency	Purpose	Area burned	Average cost per acre
		Acres	Dollars
OPERATIONAL BURNS			
U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife	Wildlife habitat management	993	2.62
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	Wildlife habitat management	525	6.58
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Planting site preparation	611	12.01
	Seedbed preparation	186	3.99
	Blueberry production	121	5.74
	Wildlife habitat management	358	16.63
	Wildlife habitat management	600	(1/)
USDA Forest Service	Planting site preparation	388	2.67
	Hazard reduction	9,951	4.30
	Blueberry production	20	(1/)
	Wildlife habitat management	175	(1/)
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Planting site preparation	612	6.74
	Seedbed preparation	122	3.28
	Hazard reduction	63	20.34
	Prairie restoration	62	(1/)
	Wildlife habitat management	4,484	1.49
Total		19,271	
EXPERIMENTAL BURNS			
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Seedbed preparation	6	
	Seedbed preparation	4	12.50
	Wildlife habitat management	85	
U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife	Seedbed preparation	244	.45
University of Minnesota	Natural area maintenance	145	
Total		484	
Grand Total		19,755	

1/ Costs not reported.

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